procurement, movement and distribution of fertilizers. Besides, regular monitoring, the arrangements for supply are periodically reviewed in supply Review and Inter-Ministerial meetings, held weekly during the peak consumption months, and wherein representatives of State Governments, canalising agencies and Ministries of Railways and Surface Transport are also associated.

*[English]*

**STD Facility to Haldibari**

59. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of demerits of the STD link of Haldibari through Mekhliganj;

(b) the number of demands received by Government from public and Members of Parliment for providing STD link to Haldibari through Jalpaiguri during the last three years,

(c) the reasons due to which the STD link to Haldibari could not be provided through Jalpaiguri till date. and

(d) by when the same is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) . (a) No, Sir, because there are no demerits

(b) Demand for providing STD link to Haldibari through Jalpaiguri was received from Hon'ble M.P. (LS) himself vide his letters dated 26.8 95 & 13 9.95 addressed to the then Hon'ble MOS(C). No such demand from public has been received.

(c) The STD at Haldibari has been provided through Jalpaiguri via Mekhliganj its "Short Distance Charging Centre" on the basis of principle of SDCC Concept

(d) Does not arise as the STD service at Haldibari is working smoothly.

**OBC Representation in IAS and IPS**

60 SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV
SHRI R.L.P VERMA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the existing percentage of representation of backward classes in the Indian Administrative Service and the Indian Police Service,

(b) the total number of officers under each of the above cadres in the country;

(c) the number of posts reserved for the backward classes in the above cadres lyirg vacant;

(d) the efforts made by the Government to fill up these vacant posts;

(e) whether the Government are contemplating to provide reservation in promotions to the employees belonging to OBC;

(f) If so, the details thereof; and

(g) If not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) In the direct recruitment to the Indian Administrative Service and the Indian Police Service, 27% reservation in recruitment has been provided for candidates belonging to the O.B.C.

(b) the total number of officers in position as on 1.1.1996 are as follows :

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| I.A.S. | - | 5047 |
| I.P.S. | - | 2947 |

(c) Nil.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) This will be examined.

(f) and (g). The I.A.S. and I.P.S. are the highest category of Group 'A' Services. Reservation is provided for the OBC at the stage of initial recruitment only. As IAS/IPS are the highest category of Civil Services/All India Services, and as promotion in these services are strictly by the criteria of merit and suitability with due regard to seniority, Government have taken a decision not to provide for reservation in promotion in these Services.

*[English]*

**Assam Problems**

61. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH
SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL.

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided/is considering inititation of dialogue with insurgent groups in Assam viz ULFA, NSCN, Bodo Security Forces etc to solve the Assam problems, and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) and (b). The Government of India believes in solution of probems through talks and negotiations to bring about peace, stability and development. The Government of India is prepared for talks with any group which is willing to work within the framework of the Constitution of India and abjure violence No talks have been initiated with the terrorist outfits operating in Assam, as they have not indicated their willingness for talks within the